



Ontario

Helping Kids with
Physical Disabilities
Succeed



2012 RECREATIONAL CHOICES FUNDING PROGRAM APPLICATION GUIDELINES

A. INDIVIDUAL RECREATION EXPERIENCE

This option is available for children/youth registered with Easter Seals Ontario who are between 5-18 years old as of July 1, 2012 and are not attending an Easter Seals camp or are a Crown Ward.

Please note:

- Up to \$500.00 (Canadian) is available per child for a recreational experience within Ontario (i.e. day camp, recreational camp, swimming lessons, etc.)
- Parents/guardians must apply for separate funding for each child who has a physical disability and wishes to access a recreational summer program.
- Funding must be used within the summer recreation season from July 1 to September 3, 2012

Individual Recreational Choices Funding Program does NOT cover:

- Transportation costs to and from the recreational program
- Babysitting services or 1:1 workers (i.e. Reach for the Rainbow, babysitter, caregiver, therapist, activity clothing/equipment, meals, etc.)

B. FAMILY VACATION EXPERIENCE

This option is available for children/youth registered with Easter Seals Ontario, who are between 5-18 years old as of July 1, 2012 **are medically fragile or have a severe disability** and are not attending an Easter Seals camp or are a Crown Ward. Please attach a letter to your application form outlining why your child cannot attend a recreational program. Easter Seals' medical review committee will review your request. *To be considered for funding for a family vacation you must have already searched for a recreational program for your child and been unable to find a program that can accommodate your child due to the severity of her/his disability. If your child is approved for the individual option, and you send in receipts/invoices for the family vacation option, you must provide the aforementioned letter in order to be reconsidered for the family vacation option.* Please note, writing this letter does not guarantee your request will be approved. If your request is denied, the funds reserved for you for the individual option will still be available.

Please note:

- Funding covers up to \$500.00 (Canadian) *per child* for a family vacation within Ontario
- Funding must be used within the recreation season from July 1 to September 3, 2012
- The child who has a physical disability must attend the family vacation
- Funding contributes to the cost of an approved or recognized provincial campsite, cottage or lodge/motel accommodation

Family Vacation Funding does NOT cover:

- Gas/mileage, car rentals or flights to and from the vacation site
- Food
- Rental of recreational or medical equipment for the family or child/youth
- Cost of a 1:1 worker (this includes babysitter, caregiver, therapist, etc.)
- Rental of friends' or relatives' cottages or homes
- Admission fees for attractions (i.e. ROM, Canada's Wonderland, Toronto Zoo, etc.)

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Requests for financial assistance are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.** Limited funding is available, so please complete your request form and return it to the Easter Seals Ontario Head Office as soon as possible.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for the registration of their child(ren) in the chosen recreational program.
- Requests for Recreational Choices Funding must be submitted before the program has been attended. You can apply for funding even if you do not know what specific program your child will be attending, but we ask you to provide a description of the program you are considering. Funds will only be released once official receipts have been received by Easter Seals Ontario.
- The application process can take up 4 weeks to process.
- Easter Seals Ontario reserves the right to deny any application that does not meet the eligibility criteria or if receipts do not match what funding was originally approved for.

Please choose one of the following application options and follow the steps outlined below:

Option #1: Parent/Guardian pay the program directly

STEP 1: Please complete the Request for Financial Assistance form and send it to the Easter Seals Ontario Head Office along with detailed documentation about your chosen recreational program/vacation. The application must be received in our Head Office no later than **July 1, 2012**. As funds are limited, applications received prior to this deadline are not guaranteed funding, therefore, **please apply early!**

STEP 2: You will be notified in writing if your request for funding has been approved.

STEP 3: Parents/guardians send all official receipts to Easter Seals Ontario for reimbursement. Receipts must be received in our Head Office no later than **September 7, 2012** for families to receive funding. No funds will be released without proper documentation.

Option #2: Easter Seals Ontario pays the program directly

STEP 1: Please complete the Request for Financial Assistance form and send it to the Easter Seals Ontario Provincial Office along with detailed documentation about your chosen recreational program/vacation. The application must be received in our Head Office no later than **July 1, 2012**. As funds are limited, applications received prior to this deadline are not guaranteed funding, therefore **please apply early!**

STEP 2: You will be notified in writing if your request for funding has been approved. You will then be required to send copies of the completed recreational program/vacation registration forms **AND** confirmation of enrolment forms to the Easter Seals Ontario Head office. These documents must be received in the our Head Office no later than **September 7, 2012** for the funds to be released.

STEP 3: Easter Seals Ontario will send a cheque (up to \$500) to the recreational program/vacation experience of your choice. You will be notified in writing when the cheque has been sent.

Any Questions?

Contact the Recreation Co-ordinator at 416-421-8377 ext. 325 or 1-800-668-6252 ext. 325
or e-mail camp@easterseals.org.